

Dec. 11. ✓

PEOPLE ARE LEAVING.

The Population of St. Pierre Is Now Only 3500.

Fred H. White, of the Western Union Telegraph service at St. Pierre, Miq., is on a business trip here. In an interview he said that 14 years ago the population of St. Pierre was 4700, and it now amounted to but 3500, the decrease being accounted for by the immigration of the people to Western Canada, where a living could be more easily gained than by the hard toil of the sea, or the grind in the coal mines of Cape Breton, to which many of the people went in the winter time when the other source of living, the sea, was not available.

The island, of course belonging to France, the people still confirm to the usages of old France, as well as to the laws. Mr. White said they have all manner of quaint customs, which they have preserved down the years, and the changes that time has worked in the habits has left them for the most part untouched, as they are conservative in the extreme. There is little agriculture on the island, the people raising nothing for their own immediate use.

The main reason for those of the folks, who emigrate to Sydney in the winter coming back to share in the hard living of the sea, is because of the subsidy which the French Government allows to the fishermen, and the fishing industry. France has always been hard put to man her navy, and the experience which these men of Miqelon receive in their daily striving with the elements eminently fits them for the man-of-war, and France occasionally calls on the fishermen to pay the penalty attached to the subsidy. The benefit of this subsidy, however, Mr. White says, as usual, does not go altogether into the pockets of the fishermen, but the merchant pockets perhaps his full share of it.

Some years ago a greater number of ships which came out from France to fish the banks, were outfitted at St. Pierre, but that time is past, and for the most part they are fully outfitted before they leave France, with a consequent loss to the island.

There are no duty on goods entering St. Pierre and wines and liquors enter free of duty, but the people are law abiding, sober and industrious. While they are no great riches, there is no dreadful poverty, and they get along well enough making a fair if somewhat hard living.

The English population of the island amounts to 50.—Sydney Record.

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Late Arrivals at Pensacola.

The following arrivals were reported at Pensacola, Saturday:

Sch. Emily Cooney, Captain Howard Snell, 28 days out to Campechy, 16,000 pounds of snapper and 13,000 pounds of grouper.

Sch. Mary Cooney, Captain Gus Hansen, out 21 days to Campechy, 20,000 pounds of snapper and 10,000 pounds of grouper.

Sch. Sheffeyld, Captain Joe McGachlin, out 23 days to Campechy, 20,000 pounds of snapper and 5000 pounds of grouper.

All of the crafts reported excellent weather. In fact, they stated that the weather at times was too excellent. Captain Snell pointing out that he was six days in making the trip home and four days going over.

Pensacola fishermen are keen on the weather subject just now. As a matter of fact, however, they always find weather conditions more or less interesting and personal. It means much to them at times and for that reason they find that the present weather is not quite suiting them. They are not complaining about the rain, either. They contend that the Wind God has gone to sleep on his laurels and that to their disadvantage.

No less than a dozen local fishing crafts are being held up in Pensacola because of weather conditions. A number of the smacks have for several days been ready to leave for the snapper banks, but their departure has been delayed by the excellent weather. They don't mind the weather being "reasonably" good, but the conditions at present are termed as being "unreasonably" good for the fishing business.—Pensacola News.

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WANT TO KNOW
WHAT'S DOINGLocal Fishermen Ask About
That Beam Trawling
Investigation.

A despatch from Washington says: "The Gloucester fishing men have become impatient over the inquiry by the fish commission of the government on beam trawling fishing which they say is injuring their business by sweeping the Atlantic clean of fish and they have written to Washington inquiring why no report is made, congress having ordered one. This was done last summer, \$5000 being appropriated. The reply is made that the inquiry will not be completed before next summer and pending a complete report the experts will say nothing. It is all or none."

Congressman Gardner received a letter of complaint from Gloucester yesterday, and will do all in his power to stir the commission to speedy action.

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Pacific Coast Notes.

The Grand Trunk line steamer Prince Rupert arrived at Victoria, B. C., recently, bringing the first shipment of fresh fish caught by the new steam trawlers brought out from England. The Canadian steamer Gray, of the Canadian Northern Pacific Fisheries Co., has been fined \$538 by the United States custom officials at Port Townsend. The Gray was fined \$400 for landing two harpoons, two nautical instruments and one drum of paint at Tacoma without having them on the manifest and without obtaining a permit from the customs authorities. In addition to the \$400 another fine of \$138.36, the appraised value of the articles landed was assessed.

Porto Rico Fish Market. ✓

There is no material change to report in the position of our fish market. Stocks of superior quality are not very large, and with light shipments we ought to soon see improvement. However, there are some inferior supplies which are being moved at low figures and these sales contribute to hold prices down.

We maintain our previous quotations of codfish, \$30 per cask of 450 pounds; pollock and haddock, \$22 per cask of 450 pounds.

Reported November 26, 1912, by S. Ramirez & Co., San Juan, Porto Rico.

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Open Season Helps Fresh Fish.

It is seldom that the fish market is so favored as at present, when the open season has permitted the capture and sale of all varieties of both salt and fresh-water fish. Usually at this time of the year the market is full of frozen stock, for which practically higher prices are paid, than at this time when there is so much green fish. Still, notwithstanding favorable conditions, there is very little buying.—Fishing Gazette.

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Had a Sturgeon.

The steam trawler Spray landed a sturgeon at T wharf this morning, which weighed 150 pounds.

On Maiden Trip.

The new gill netting steamer Mary F. Ruth made her first set yesterday and will lift today.

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CAN MAKE DOGFISH YIELD A REVENUE.

Dr. Field of State Commission Tells
How To Do It.

① Dr. George W. Field of the Massachusetts Fish and Game Commission in an article in last week's Fishing Gazette, points out means by which dogfish, the pest of fishermen, may be made to yield a substantial revenue. Among other things, he suggests that they might be ground, dried and used for pig, poultry or horse food, rendered in oil and fertilizer. In fact every part of the dogfish can be put to some use, according to the deductions of Dr. Field.

He says:

In the first place I ought to say that the species about which I speak is not the dogfish of the middle west, but a species of shark common in various salt waters all over the world and of very general interest on that account. As you know, it is also one of the most abundant of the sharks, just how abundant is not really known; but four or five years ago we attempted to estimate the number by means of statements from upwards of 500 captains sailing out of Boston and Gloucester. We asked them to make a careful estimate of the number of dogfish they caught during the season, and they reported 27,000,000 actually caught on their lines, trawls and nets—27,000,000 dogfish averaging about seven pounds apiece. In other words, they caught more dogfish than cod, haddock or other fish. They bring into Boston and Gloucester about 200,000,000 pounds of fish annually; and the catch of dogfish alone is practically equal to their entire catch of halibut, cod, haddock and other species combined.

What Damage They Do.

At the same time we attempted to find out approximately how much was actually done by dogfish to the nets and trawls of the fishermen. Upon investigation we learned this to be in round numbers about 160,000 pieces of line, etc., with bait attached. As you know, bait in the salt-water fisheries is a very important item, costing 50 cents a barrel and upwards, and fishermen are willing to pay almost any price for the right kind.

But more than that, when the fishermen lifted their trawls, which are often a mile or more in length and save, say, 2000 hooks each hanging by a short line every 6 feet, they sometimes found over 1500 dogfish.

③ are destroying the alewife and menhaden, upon which many of our fisheries depend for bait, while on the other hand we are leaving in the water the enemy which is destroying countless numbers of our most valuable fishes.

We have therefore made some observations to determine what is the actual value of the dogfish. To put very briefly, we have found that the in the liver is about 50 per cent. of the weight of the liver. This oil can be sold for about 25 to 35 cents a gallon, so that one dogfish would ordinarily yield about 2-3-4 cents worth of oil. In addition to that there is the body, which as a fertilizer is worth \$27 to \$35 a ton at present. The dogfish then at that rate would be worth about 3 cents for fertilizer, making altogether 5-3-4 cents. Experiments are still under way to determine whether or not the peritoneum of the dogfish may be used for surgical dressings. I am not prepared to go into that but it may be an important factor. The peritoneum, you recall, is the delicate covering of the liver, intestines, etc., which can be separated as a very thin, delicate membrane.

Finally, and perhaps most important, we have made some experiments to ascertain the value of the eggs of the dogfish. Each female dogfish yields from four to eight eggs; how often we do not know, but probably two or three times a year. These eggs are retained in the body of the dogfish until they are hatched. The young are born alive. We find that the eggs can be used by tanners as hen's eggs are used. For a practical demonstration we furnished the tanners with about 75 pounds of the eggs, and

② On the rest of the 2000 hooks they found not dogfish, but the heads of codfish and haddock which had been entirely eaten by the dogfish.

When I say the damage by dogfish to bait, nets and trawls is upwards of \$400,000 a year to the Massachusetts fishermen alone, I am well within bounds.

So after all the question of utilizing these dogfish is very important, particularly for the reason that dogfish live almost exclusively upon the edible fish, the young cod and other bottom fish, the lobster, the young of various surface-feeding fishes, mackerel and other species. If we assume that they eat only one or two pounds of fish a day at a cent a pound, and there are at least 27,000,000 doing business all the time, the daily destruction of fish, for which we pay 5 or 10 cents a pound, is very considerable, certainly figuring up a damage of \$5,000,000 or \$10,000,000 a year at a very conservative estimate. We do not know how much it really costs, but it is certainly going on.

How numerous these sharks are is also shown from the fact that there is a record of an otter-trawl taking over seven tons of dogfish at a single haul. A net about 100 feet across the mouth, dragged on the bottom, brought up at one haul over seven tons of dogfish alone!

Problem An Important One.

Thus the problem of utilizing dogfish becomes very important. The United States Bureau of Fisheries has done excellent work in urging the utilization of these fish as food. They are prized in other sections of the world as food, but we have not come to that in this country, although as the bureau has pointed out, they are as good as many of the fish that are already fashionable.

I believe thoroughly that many tons of these dogfish could be utilized by being dried, ground and used as pig and poultry food, or as food for horses, as they are actually used in Cape Breton. There they are caught and hung on fences to dry and then used as horse food; about one dogfish a week is given to keep a horse in good condition. Any residue could doubtless be used as fertilizer. Dogfish would constitute a more truly economic source of nitrogenous fertilizer than the menhaden; it is not used as staple food by any other species of economic fishes, as are the menhaden. So on the one hand we

samples which they say are satisfactory, and I judge from the odor that the preparation of dogfish fins and tails would be relatively easy. They are also used in making soups of a gelatinous character. The value of the dried fins and tail, prepared with sugar, is about 20 cents per pound retail, or a value of 5 to 20 cents for each adult dogfish. The total value therefore of oil, fertilizer, eggs and fins is not less than 11-3-4 cents per fish and may easily double this amount.

The question of the utilization of dogfish depends on the question of bringing them into port. Fishermen refuse to bring them in at present. We are now endeavoring to make a market by which the fishermen can bring the fish to definite places for utilization. But that is difficult, for no manufacturer will equip a plant until assured of a definite supply of dogfish. We asked a fisherman to bring in a few dogfish one day, and he brought in 1800 pounds instead of 50 pounds; and then for several days we could not get any. So the manufacturers are unwilling until they can find a definite and regular source of dogfish supply to equip their factories for the purpose. We have suggested that a power vessel might be profitably employed to collect the dogfish from the vessels on the fishing ground, e. g., South Channel, or Georges, and bring them to the factory, or even have the vessel equipped with a small rendering plant to operate at sea near the fishing fleet. But we are rather hopeful of a solution from the fact that a fleet of otter-trawlers is developing in Boston harbor. There are at present four, and at least two more will be launched.

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we received a report that they could be used the same as hen's eggs. You know that in preparing glove leather it is important to get the oil into the leather in such a way that the leather will not remain greasy. For this purpose they make an emulsion of the oil and treat the skin with it. Hen's eggs are used by stirring them up in the oil, and thus used it is found that one dogfish egg is equal to two hen's eggs. In other words, one dogfish egg will emulsify as much oil as will two hen's eggs. The average yield of eggs is 4 1-2 ounces per dogfish, of a value of at least one cent per fish. Here is some glove leather prepared in Peabody with the dogfish eggs. The only difficulty is that the leather is not as white as the leather prepared with hen's eggs, but nevertheless the tanners in Massachusetts are anxious to get the dogfish eggs at a reasonable price.

Used by Chinese.

It was also found that the fins and tails of dogfish are used very largely by the Chinese, and we have had inquiries from Hong Kong as to whether or not we can ship shark fins and tails to Hong Kong and Singapore. They have gone so far as to send us

ed soon. The question is whether these otter-trawlers, which catch a large quantity of dogfish may not find it profitable to bring them in either entire or in part, e. g., livers, eggs, fins and tail. The otter-trawlers are very much opposed by the general fishermen and vessel owners, who believe that they will destroy the fishing grounds, as it is claimed that they have done in the North Sea. If, however, it can be shown that the otter-trawlers can be used for destroying these dogfish and placing them on the market, thus cutting off an enormous economic loss to the fishermen, possibly there will be a better feeling between the old line fishermen and the otter-trawlers.

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ARRIVALS STILL HOLD OFF HERE

Nothing From Off-Shore. One Craft From N. F. Brings Salt Cod.

Outside of the arrival of the British schooner Ada Bishop, this morning, with a cargo of salt cod, the spell remains unbroken, for not a local off shore has arrived in port since Saturday.

The Bishop is here from Burin, N. F., she is consigned to Davis Bros.

Yesterday afternoon, sch. Francis J. O'Hara, Jr., landed 600 weight of fresh fish at the Fort. Of course the gill netters helped out on the day's receipts of shore fish, landing about 200,000 pounds, the greater part of which were shipped to Boston and assisted greatly in relieving the situation there this morning.

Today's Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and receipts in detail are:

Sch. Frances J. O'Hara, Jr., shore, 6000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Ilsen, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Alice, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Quoddy, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Eagle, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Naomi Bruce, gill netting, 4900 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Rough Rider, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Margaret D., gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Prince Olaf, gill netting, 3200 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Nomad, gill netting, 3500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Bethulia, gill netting, 12,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Hugo, gill netting, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Little Fannie, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Sunflower, gill netting, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Evelyn H., gill netting, 2600 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Ethel, gill netting, 13,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. George E. Fisher, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Gertrude T., gill netting, 18,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Geisha, gill netting, 5000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Nashawena gill netting, 8000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Water Witch, gill netting, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Scout, gill netting, 2500 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Medomak, gill netting, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. R. J. Kellick, gill netting, 2000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Lorena, gill netting, 7000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Sawyer, gill netting, 26,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Mary F. Rich, gill netting, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. Enterprise, gill netting, 10,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Str. F. S. Willard, gill netting, 9000 lbs. fresh fish.

British sch. Ada Bishop, Burin, N. F., 23,000 lbs. salt cod, 100 qtls. cured cod.

Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Priscilla Smith, Newfoundland herring trip.

Sch. Jennie B. Hodgdon, Newfoundland herring trip.

Sch. Eugenia, deck handling.

Sch. Tecumseh, Boston.

THEY NEED MORE FISH FOR ORDERS

T Wharf Has Only a Small Part of Required Supply Today.

It was another short day for fish receipts at T wharf, Boston, this morning, there being but one off shore and seven shore boats in, each with small fares of fish.

Sch. Muriel had the largest haul of the morning, with 25,000 pounds of cod, 4000 of haddock and 3000 hake. The shore fleet comprised schs. Elizabeth W. Nunan, 8000 pounds; Genesta, 5000 pounds; Mettacomet, 2200 pounds; W. M. Goodspeed, 5000 pounds; Margaret Dillon, 4900 pounds; Florida, 2500 pounds; Sadie M. Nunan.

Haddock sold at \$5 to \$7 a hundred pounds, large cod, \$6 to \$7; market cod, \$4 to \$5; hake, \$4 to \$6.50; pollock, \$1.90; cusk, \$3.

Boston Arrivals.

The fares and prices in detail are: Sch. Elizabeth W. Nunan, 3000 haddock, 4000 cod, 1000 hake.

Sch. Genesta, 2500 haddock, 500 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Mettacomet, 200 haddock, 2000 hake.

Sch. W. W. Goodspeed, 3000 haddock, 2000 hake.

Sch. Margaret Dillon, 7500 haddock, 400 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Florida, 2500 cod.

Sch. Muriel, 4000 haddock, 25,000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Sadie M. Nunan.

Haddock, \$5 to \$7 per cwt.; large cod, \$6 to \$7; market cod, \$4 to \$5; hake, \$4 to \$6.50; pollock, \$1.90; cusk, \$3; halibut, 20 cents for white and gray.

TODAY'S FISH MARKET.

Salt Fish.

Trawl bank cod, large, \$4.25, medium, \$3.75, snappers, \$2.75.

Handline Georges codfish, large, \$5.50 per cwt.; medium, \$4.62 1-2 snappers, \$3.25.

Eastern halibut codfish, large \$4.50; mediums, \$3.75; snappers, \$3.

Dory handlining codfish, large, \$4.50; medium, \$4.12 1-2; snappers, \$3.50.

Georges halibut codfish, large, \$4.50; mediums, \$4.

Drift codfish, large, \$4.25; mediums, \$3.62 1-2.

Cusk, large, \$2.25; mediums, \$1.75; snappers, \$1.25.

Pollock, \$1.50.

Hake, \$1.50.

Haddock, \$1.50.

Large salt mackerel, \$25 per bbl.

Fledged halibut, 10c per lb.

Salt herring, \$3.50 per bbl.

Pickled herring, \$4.50 per bbl.

Fresh Fish.

Haddock, \$1.10 per cwt.

Eastern cod, large, \$2.10; medium, \$1.75; snappers, 75c.

Western cod, large, \$2.15; mediums, \$1.80; snappers, 75c.

All codfish not gilled 10c per 100 pounds less than the above.

Hake, \$1.15.

Cusk, large, \$1.30; mediums, \$1; snappers, 50c.

Dressed pollock, 80c; round 90c.

Bank halibut, 17c lb. for white and 14c lb. for gray.

Fresh herring, \$1 per bbl. to salt; \$2 per bbl for bait.

Portland Fish Notes.

A big carload of frozen bluebacks was being loaded at the Portland Cold Storage Co., Tuesday for shipment to Boston, where it will be used as bait for the fishermen.

Judging by the high figures now being paid for haddock, it looks as if there would be few of these fish smoked this winter. However, the dealers say the price will drop in a few weeks, and then the fish will be smoked as usual. Many of the vessels that have been fishing to the eastward are expected here shortly, and that will help to force the market down. Finan haddies have not yet become an article of diet for the rich only.

May seems to be a popular name for vessels. In the dock between Long and Central wharves, Tuesday, were the sch. Lizzie May and the sloop Ada May. The steamer Lottie May was carrying people to and from South Portland. Monday the sch. Mildred May was in Portland on her way to Gloucester. There are many other Mays that have not been seen here lately.

Capt. George L. McLain, formerly of the fishing steamer Carrie and Mildred, has just purchased the sch. A. P. Parkhurst from Mrs. Edward Robinson. He will not use it as yet in the fishing business.

Except for a few pounds landed by the small boat fishermen, the fish receipts were practically nothing, Tuesday. Capt. George Rice, who is the only netter at present operating from Portland, found the water so rough outside the port that he decided to leave his nets out a day longer. The rest of the fishing fleet is on the grounds.

Will Study Fish Culture.

George M. Bowers, United States Fish Commissioner, will sail from New York for Europe on December 12 to study fish culture at the principal hatcheries of Germany, Italy, France, Austria, England and other European countries.

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LATEST FROM HERRING FLEET

Quite a number of the Newfoundland herring fleet are due to arrive here during the latter part of the week and the first part of next, late messages from the West Coast stating that several crafts have loaded and proceeded for home.

Among the crafts on the way are schs. Fannie A. Smith, Gov. Russell, Annie M. Parker, Senator Gardner, Monitor, Alalanta, Maxine Elliott, Senator Alpha, Smuggler, Arabia and Bohemia.

Late news from Bonne Bay reports herring very plentiful at that place last week.

Sch. Bohemia has arrived at Bonne Bay and sch. Flirt at Wood's Island to load.

There has been little or no frost at either the Bay of Islands or Bonne Bay to date. Real cold weather is not looked for until after Christmas.

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After Donahue's Berth.

Abner C. Johnson of Bath, Me., for 22 years a warden in the department of the seashore fisheries, has announced his candidacy for the position of commissioner of seashore fisheries to succeed James Donahue of Rockland. Mr. Johnson, who has for many years been one of the most efficient wardens on the Maine coast, has strong support from those who believe that he is entitled to recognition from the state.

To Bring New Vessel Here.

Tug Eveleth went to Essex this morning to tow around a new schooner built for Capt. Munn of Galveston.

DUTIABLE FRENCH FISH

The following instructions to customs collectors as to the various classes of fish from the French fishers, on which an export bounty is paid by France, and on which the United States assess a countervailing duty, have been issued by the treasury:

1. The fish designated under the generic name of "cod" are: The proper or true cod, the black-striped cod or donkey fish (haddock), the long cod and the Julienne or bearded cod (hake).

2. The fish from the west coast of Africa entitled to the bounty mentioned in articles 2 and 11 of paragraph 4 are those belonging to the following species. Dentex vulgaris, diagramma mediterraneum, epinephelus (serranus) aeneus, sciaena aquilla and polynemus quadrifilis.

Referring to the names in the second paragraph of the decree, the commissioner of fisheries made the following statement:

The fishes mentioned as occurring on the west coast of Africa are local species having no English names:

Dentex vulgaris is known to the French of the Mediterranean as dente.

Diagramma mediterraneum has no common name known to the Bureau of Fisheries.

Epinephelus aeneus belong to a genus represented in the southern part of the United States by fishers known as groupers and hinds.

Sciaena aquilla is known to the French of the west coast of Africa as la sciene. Related species in the United States are known as croakers and drum fishes.

Polynemus quadrifilis is called le capitaine on the west coast of Africa.

By French executive decree of September 18, 1912, the customs duty of of dried, salted and smoked fish, including codfish, but not including herring, stockfish, mackerel, sardines or anchovies, in the colony of Reunion, is reduced to .10 francs per 100 kilos (about 88 cts. per 100 pounds). The former duty on such fish (\$5.25 and \$4.20 per 100 pounds under the general and minimum tariffs, respectively) was declared to confine the imports to French fish, which was selling at high prices. Since codfish, and rice constitute the chief part of the food of the poor class, it was thought expedient to reduce the duty.

Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Fannie E. Prescott called at Shelburne Saturday last for dories, which were supplied her by John Ebberington.

Steamer Erik arrived at Halifax from Newfoundland Monday last with 11,000 quintals of dry codfish, consigned to Job Bros.

Schs. Fannie A. Smith and Imperator sailed for the fishing grounds from Canso Monday last.

Sch. Elmer E. Gray sailed from Liverpool for fishing Monday last.